

REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action dated August 4, 2003, the Applicant makes the above-referenced election with traversal. The Examining Attorney stated that Inventions I and II are related as a process and apparatus for its practice. The Examiner noted that, in this case, the apparatus as claimed can be used in a different process, such as the removal of VOCs from exhaust gases. However, claim 1 is not limited to a specific type of toxic constituent in an effluent gas. The Examiner similarly distinguished Inventions I and III.

The Examiner distinguished the Inventions II and III, noting that the inventions cannot be shown as capable of use together, and they have different modes of operations, functions or different effects. Specifically, the Examiner stated that the different inventions have different modes of operation, since they are carried out in different apparatuses.

The Examiner's attention is directed to amended claim 7, which Applicant submits is a linking claim directed to the method for the abatement of toxic constituents of effluent gases discharged during the manufacture of semiconductor devices. See, MPEP §809.03(e). Moreover, claim 7 is not limited by a particular group of toxic constituents to be removed. Accordingly, claim 7 is broad enough to include the operation that may be carried out by an apparatus that includes a burn-wet scrubber, as claimed in the independent claim 12 and independent claim 1. Any restriction requirement should be subject to the non-

allowance of the independent claim 7. Upon allowance, any restriction requirement should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the election requirement and prosecute the application and claims as originally filed and amended. If further prosecution of this application can be facilitated via telephone conference, the Examining Attorney is invited to contact the undersigned at (407) 926-7706.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert L. Wolter", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Robert L. Wolter, Esquire
Registration No. 36,972
Beusse Brownlee Bowdoin & Wolter, P.A.
390 North Orange Ave., Suite 2500
Orlando, Florida 32801
Telephone: (407) 926-7706
Facsimile: (407) 926-7720
Email: rwolter@iplawfl.com